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This was certainly one of the reasons why our crew members did not go ashore more often. They were nervous and apprehensive as to what might happen to them.

4. Another fairly significant restriction was the fact they would allow us to make no soundings. As you know, when you load a ship, you have to be sure you are not taking on so much dead weight that you will ground it on the way out. The mate started to make soundings with a sounding line while we were tied up at the dock but was immediately stopped by the guard who pointed his gun at him, and would, I am sure, have shot him if he had not stopped immediately. When I explained the necessity for such information, I was told that the Harbor Master would make it available. However, when I called the Harbor Master I was told abruptly that it was not possible to give me that information.
5. The pilots in the area I found to be very talkative when we were alone. The one who took us into Novorossiisk complained to me bitterly that he was made to act in such a capacity, because he had once owned several ships himself. He was obviously not a Party member. One or two of the pilots would not even accept a cup of coffee from us because of criticism which might be leveled at them. The same one who had been a ship owner was having a bite to eat in the wardroom with me one day when Gerasimov's secretary came in and scornfully and quite sincerely accused him of being a capitalist simply because he was having coffee and cookies with me.
6. Since our binoculars had been taken away from us, it was a little difficult for us to see what was going on around us. The whole area was very drab and depressing, however, and the people the most poverty-stricken I have ever seen.
7. In Novorossiisk there was a cement plant in operation, which was going full blast. There were barracks for persons who were being forced to work there. Whether or not they were prisoners of war or Soviet nationals, I could not determine.
8. In Poti, the only things which I saw of any interest were two old submarines and two mine sweepers in the Navy yard.

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